



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to 9 ½ Years in Prison For Shooting a Friend After Argument Over Money - Victim Remains at Rehabilitation Hospital, One Year After Attack -

WASHINGTON – Ricardo Lucas, 24, of Washington, D.C., has been sentenced to 9 ½ years in prison for shooting a friend numerous times after an argument over money, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today.

Lucas plead guilty in May 2011 to aggravated assault while armed. He was sentenced July 29, 2011 by the Honorable Ronna L. Beck in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

According to a statement of facts agreed upon by the defendant, Lucas and the victim had been friends for a number of years. In the early morning hours of June 30, 2010, Lucas was with the victim, then 23, in the courtyard area of the Greenleaf Gardens apartments in the 200 block of L Street SW. The two argued over money. Lucas left the area, only to return minutes later with a Tech .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol. Lucas fired several shots, striking the victim in the head, chest, right arm and left hip, before immediately fleeing the scene.

Metropolitan Police Officers Yolanda Lampkin and Chancham Spears were patrolling in the First District and heard the gunshots. They immediately responded to the scene of the shooting. They saw Lucas, whom they knew as “Ricardo,” leaving the area. Not knowing the condition of the victim, the officers immediately went to the victim’s aid rather than stopping the defendant. The victim was still conscious and the officers asked who shot him. The victim said that “Goochie” shot him, and pointed toward Lucas’s residence in the 200 block of L Street SW.

MPD First District Detective James Freeman also heard the gunshots while in the parking lot behind the First District Headquarters. Instead of getting into his car to go home after completing his shift, Detective Freeman quickly drove to where he heard the gunshots. While driving into the courtyard of Greenleaf Gardens, Detective Freeman also saw Lucas leaving the scene. Also not knowing the condition of the victim, Detective Freeman rushed to the victim’s aid rather than stopping the defendant.

After repeating to Detective Freeman that “Goochie” had shot him, the victim lost consciousness and was taken by ambulance to a hospital, where he was rushed to surgery for his wounds. The victim remained in a coma for nearly three weeks, and remains at a rehabilitation hospital due to the extensive debilitating nature of his gunshot wounds.

Police quickly identified “Goochie” as a nickname used by Lucas, and confirmed that he lived in the residence on L Street SW. Viewing a prior arrest photo of Lucas, Detective Freeman, and Officers Lampkin and Spears all recognized him as the person they saw leaving the scene. Also, nine .22 caliber shell casings were found at the scene of the shooting, and the Tech .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol used by Lucas to shoot the victim was found in a trash can along the path that Detective Freeman saw Lucas leaving.

Later that same day, Detective Freeman applied for and received an arrest warrant for Lucas. On July 1, 2010, Lucas turned himself in on the warrant.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended those who worked on the case from the Metropolitan Police Department, including Detective James Freeman, Officers Yolanda Lampkin and Chancham Spears, and Crime Scene Technicians Kemper Agee, Leother Strong, Edward Hansohn and David Murray. He also thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward A. O’Connell who investigated and indicted the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Joshua Klein, who negotiated the plea agreement and advocated for the government at sentencing.

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